AN

ADDRESS

TO THE

GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

FOR THE

SUPPORT of the MISSIONS,

Carried on by the METHODIST SOCIETY,

IN THE

WEST INDIES, NOVA SCOTIA, and NEWFOUNDLAND.

By THOMAS COKE, LL.D.

LONDON:

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AN

ADDRESS,

&c. &c.

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

I EMBRACE the earlieſt opportunity of returning you my grateful acknowledgments for your liberal contributions, in ſupport of our miſſions to the Weſt Indies, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. I have laid my receipts and diſburſements before a committee of the conference, having expended about fifty pounds more than I received.

I cannot preſent to you a clearer account of our ſucceſs in the Weſt Indies, than by laying before you extracts from two letters which I have lately received from two of the miſſionaries, which, with the account of my viſit to thoſe iſlands lately publiſhed, will, I truſt, afford you ſome degree of ſatisfaction.

" *Antigua, April* 30, 1787.

" Reverend and dear Sir,

" HAVING received information from brother " Clarke that he had got the grant of one hun- " dred and fifty acres of land near the Carribbs, " in St. Vincent's, in order to erect a chapel " and ſchool for the propagation of the goſpel " among them, and requeſting, moreover, that " I would pay a viſit to St. Vincent's, brother " Warrener and I ſailed to that iſland about

" three weeks ago. We met brother Clarke at " Kingſton; and the next day went to ſee the " land above mentioned. The Carribbs are " willing to receive us as miſſionaries, and to " give up their children to be taught by us. " This undertaking will be attended with ex- " pence at preſent, in which I truſt, our Eng- " liſh friends will aſſiſt us, as we have no re- " ſources yet in the Weſt Indies. Antigua, in- " deed, can ſupport its own expence; but there " is no proviſion made yet for a preacher at St. " Vincent's. Brother Warrener is well received, " and his labours much bleſſed at Antigua; but " is in a poor ſtate of health at preſent. Our ſociety " at Antigua conſiſts of forty-three whites, and " one thouſand nine hundred and fifty-ſeven " blacks, beſides thoſe we have on trial. I bleſs " God I ſtill deſire to be entirely devoted to his " ſervice. I feel much my own weakneſs, and " want of abilities and grace for ſo important a " work. Wiſhing you all ſpiritual bleſſings in " Chriſt Jeſus, and hoping that your life will be " ſpared, for the good of the church, I remain

" Your affectionate brother in Chriſt,

" JOHN BAXTER."

" *St. Chriſtopher's, June* 15, 1787.

" Dear and reverend Sir,

" IF I do not get ſome aſſiſtance from Eu- " rope or America, I muſt inevitably give up " St. Euſtatius; as the work at St. Kitt's is of " much greater importance at preſent. I have " occaſionally viſited St. Euſtatius ſince your " departure. Our numbers there are increaſed, " whom I have put into regular claſſes. I waited " on the captain of the iſland, who received me " cordially, and gave me an invitation to dinner.

" He

" He desired me to get my recommendatory let-
" ters ready against the governor's arrival, who
" has been expected here for some time. Last
" night a gentleman from *Montserrat* visited me,
" who is under conviction, and longs for one of
" our missionaries to go to that island. He has
" under his influence two hundred negroes; and
" he told me, that the person we should send
" there might freely make use of *his* house as his
" home; and moreover, that he would give ten
" or twelve *Johanneses* * out of his own purse as a
" part of his salary, and that he might preach
" round the island, wherever he pleased. He
" heard me preach twice with great attention.
" About two years ago he was at *Bath*, and
" heard some gospel-ministers, which was of use
" to him. He tells me his wife and children are
" religiously disposed. This may be an opening
" for good. In my former letter I mentioned
" that we have in this island one hundred and
" fifty, and in St. Eustatius sixty-two; since I
" wrote that letter, I have an increase of one
" hundred, including Catechumens. The peo-
" ple begin to do something towards the support
" of the missionaries, which, with some more
" money from England (used with œconomy),
" may, I hope, lay a foundation for the conver-
" sion of many thousand souls. After this year,
" the island will, I apprehend, fully support its
" own ministers.

" When I was at St. Eustatius last, I had an
" opportunity of seeing two *Bermudians* (men of
" consequence), who, when I mentioned my de-
" sire of going some time to their island to
" preach, gave me an invitation to their houses.
" Also two gentlemen of *Anguilla*, when on a

* A *Johannes* is one pound sixteen shillings sterling.

" visit

" viſit at St. Kitt's, left their addreſs at Sandy
" Point, on hearing of me, and expreſſed a de-
" ſire that I ſhould go there to preach. I feel a
" great deſire that the *Grenadoes*, *Barbadoes*, and
" *Jamaica*, ſhould be viſited. O that GOD would
" diſpoſe ſome *zealous*, *pious* young men to come
" here to ſeek and to ſave the wandering children
" of *Canaan*, many of whom are ready to re-
" ceive the truth! In St. *Kitt's*, I have begotten
" a *lawyer* in the goſpel, who formerly reſided in
" London; who had been a mocker of the truth,
" but was cut to the heart on hearing me preach
" from Mark viii. 38. and he is now juſtified. One
" of the ſearchers in the cuſtom-houſe is alſo
" begotten to a lively hope, and is now a claſs-
" leader, whom, I truſt, GOD deſigns for the
" miniſtry.

" I am, dear and reverend Sir, &c.

" WILLIAM HAMMETT."

Our preachers have alſo in thoſe iſlands a large number of *Catechumens*, or *perſons under inſtruction for baptiſm*, who are not accounted members of our ſociety. Our infant-work in *Nova Scotia* proſpers alſo much: we have about ſix hundred (chiefly whites) in ſociety, who maintain the few preachers we have there at preſent. In *Newfoundland* we proceed but ſlowly. Our great harveſt in the Britiſh dominions in America, is in the Weſt India iſlands, which contain, according to the exacteſt computation that has been made, not leſs than half a million of negroes, who ſeem to be all ready to receive the goſpel. There the fields are ripe indeed: but for ſome years the expence will be very great, eſpecially in ſupporting the miſſion among the poor *Carribbs* at *St. Vincent's*, the converſion of whom will be an unſpeakable

bleſſing even in a *political* point of view, but *how* much more in a *religious!*

O help us, my brethren, I beſeech you by the love of GOD: have pity, have pity on thoſe outcaſts of men, the poor oppreſſed negroes. It is in your power to make a full compenſation to them for the *temporal* diſtreſſes they endure, by enabling us to make to them in the name of the Lord an offer of *eternal* bleſſings. And ye well know, that "GOD is not unrighteous, to forget "your work and labour of love which ye ſhew "toward his name."

I am, dearly beloved in the Lord,

Your truly affectionate brother and ſervant,

THOMAS COKE.

Southampton, Auguſt 10, 1787.

LITTLE, I think, need be added to the preceding account. Here is a glorious beginning! and, I truſt, it is only the beginning of thoſe wonderful things which GOD is about to work upon the earth! Let all that fear him continue inſtant in prayer, that the whole earth may be filled with his glory.

JOHN WESLEY.